

I'm an open-source software developer who is just starting to come up-to-speed on this issue. However, I am concerned that a vital avenue for citizen-publishers is on the verge of being precipitously shut down.

The Open spectrum/open source volunteer community is doing important work that is closely related to enhancing the civic discourse that is vital to our democracy. Therefore, the FCC should keep barriers to entry low. Rules that prohibit or limit the ability of multiple entrants will make it next to impossible for open source mesh systems to deploy.

Low power is more important in many communities than high-power. The FCC must not sacrifice the possibility of low power mesh in the 3650-3700 MHz band for the sake of high-power in the band. Ideally, the FCC should have rules that permit both, as high power is necessary for backhaul and can be useful in point to point. If it becomes necessary to choose one or the other, the FCC should keep the low power option and implement high power when cognitive radio technology has improved.

The FCC must not establish exclusive licensing or "first in time, first in right" site licensing that will make it impossible for communities to deploy numerous open source solutions. Such a ruling would be against the interests of citizen access to the airwaves.